



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22459
8 April 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 8 APRIL 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
RESPECTIVELY TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you
herewith a letter dated 7 April 1991 from Mr. Ahmed Hussein, Minister for
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex
circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 7 April 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

The President of the United States of America, George Bush, announced on 5 April 1991 that United States aircraft belonging to the United States Air Force would begin on Sunday, 7 April 1991, to conduct flights in Iraqi airspace, over northern Iraq, in order to drop what he referred to as relief supplies for the refugees and other civilians suffering hardship owing to the conditions prevailing there. The American President maintained that these operations were based on humanitarian considerations. On the following day the British Government hastened to join its major ally the United States, announcing that it would conduct a similar operation on 8 April.

Iraq was informed of these initiatives through the Permanent Missions of the United States of America and the United Kingdom to the United Nations in an insolent manner constituting an insult to the people and sovereignty of Iraq.

The affliction suffered by the Iraqi people is due to the destruction of the amenities of daily life as part of the savage annihilation wrought by the forces of the United States and its allies; what this people now needs is the immediate removal of the economic embargo imposed on it, not the dropping of crumbs of food and blankets in an ostentatious operation that has nothing humanitarian about it.

Iraq strongly protests against this American and British action which infringes the sovereignty of Iraq in a shameful violation of the principles of international law and constitutes direct interference in the internal affairs of Iraq, inasmuch as this is not taking place through the Iraqi authorities and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

The entire operation reveals and confirms the ill will of the United States and the United Kingdom towards Iraq and further corroborates the propagandistic aims of the operation, which purports to show the concern of those two imperialist Governments with humanitarian issues. If the offer of aid genuinely stemmed from good intentions and humanitarian goals, it would have been possible to deliver the alleged relief supplies to Iraq directly or through Jordan or Turkey, rather than by violating Iraq's sovereignty.

I should be grateful if you would have this note circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed HUSSEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
